

REMARKS

Claims 1-3, 5-11, 17-21 and 23-25 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1, 5-8 and 21 have been amended and claims 4 and 22 have been cancelled.

Applicants appreciate the allowance of claims 24 and 25 and the indication of allowable subject matter in claims 4-11 and 23. By this Amendment, the features of claim 4 have been incorporated into claim 1.

An Information Disclosure Statement was filed on December 6, 2005. It is requested that the Examiner consider the references and return a completely initialed Form PTO-1449 to Applicants' representative with the next Patent Office communication.

The rejections of claim 22 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, claims 1, 2, 17 and 19 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over Dworkin, U.S. Patent No. 4,300,248, claims 1-3, 17 and 19 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Hovens et al. (Hovens), U.S. Patent No. 4,473,220, claim 18 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Dworkin in view of Southard, U.S. Patent No. 4,993,546, and claim 20 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Dworkin in view Kelley, U.S. Patent No. 5,509,529, have been rendered moot.

Claim 21 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Hovens in view of Tokunoh, U.S. Patent No. 5,515,513. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Hovens and Tokunoh fail to disclose or suggest a tray with a surface, a projection and a recess, wherein the tray is a document setting tray located at an upstream side of a feeding device that feeds documents, as recited in claim 21.

Hovens discloses a staple removing and collecting appliance 5 located on a cover 1 of a copying machine (Fig. 1 and col. 2, lines 15-23). Hoven's Fig. 1 also discloses a document setting tray to the right of the cover 1 (i.e., located at an upstream side of a feeding device assumingly located in the cover 1). Hovens' appliance 5 (that allegedly includes the surface,

projection and recess of claim 21) is not located at the document setting tray and Hovens fails to provide any suggestion with regard to placing the appliance 5 on the document setting tray.

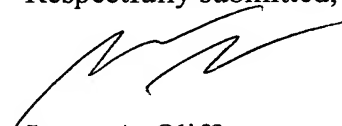
Tokunah fails to overcome the deficiencies of Hovens because Tokunah's document setting tray 152 also does not includes a surface, projection and recess as recited in claim 21.

It is respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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